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OUR HOME, OUR COUNTRY, OUR BROTHER MAN

Sowing Grass Seed in August.

Those who from pressure of work were not able to lay down what they wished to grass in the spring—or who find that there has been a failure in what has been laid down early in the season, can avail themselves of the remainder of the season until the middle of September to sow grass seeds, and expect as much success as is generally had when spring sowing has been resorted to.

Indeed the cases of failure in August sowing are not quite as numerous in proportion to the cases we have noted as those of spring sowing. It is true that clover does not succeed as well in this part of the country, when sown at the latter part of the season, as in the early part; but red top and herdsgrass usually do as well, and oftentimes better.

The system of sowing in this manner is to turn over the ground with a plough, whether it be stubble or grass land, manure, harrow well, and sow on your grass seed, and after covering it well with the harrow, bush or roller, let it take its chance.

We do not know who first originated this mode of laying down lands to grass, but the first who promulgated it extensively, and whom we have supposed to be the originator, was William Buckminster, Esq., of Framingham, Mass., now the well known editor of the Mass. Ploughman. He practiced it thoroughly, and made it known to the public, since which time it has been more or less practiced in many parts of New England. It may be a question which some would like to know, how late will it do to sow these grass seeds in this State? This has not been decided as yet, and must depend very much upon the character of the autumnal season.

We fell in company not long since with a gentleman from Westbrook in this State, who related some experiments he had tried in this mode of laying down to grass. We have not the pleasure of knowing his name, but if this should meet his eye, we hope he will excuse us if we suggest that a communication from him to the public, through some of the papers, would be doing essential service to his brother farmers. He stated that not long ago he laid down a field about the middle of September. But very little of this showed itself until the spring following, but he had an excellent crop of herdsgrass the next year, and quite two tons to the acre. He has repeatedly sowed his fields to grass in August, with as good or better success than he has had when sowing in the spring.

Although this mode is not conformable to common usage, yet we conceive that it is perfectly conformable with nature's operations. The seeds of all plants, from the grass to the oak, are sown when they come to maturity by nature. The grasses therefore are sown naturally at various times from mid-summer until "snow flies," and some of them after that period. These seeds that are scattered early, and effect a favorable lodgement spring up and obtain quite a growth before winter closes the ground. Those that do not lodge in a suitable place, or are scattered late in the season, "bide their time," and spring up during the succeeding spring.

It has been suggested that the late sowing is better than sowing in the spring with the grain crop, because the shading of the grain either prevents the grass from germinating, or shades what does germinate, and sometimes smother it. This may sometimes be the case, but there is a saving of time and labor in sowing with the grain crop in the spring, and it should always be done when it can be done to good purpose, but farmers should not let the second chance of sowing in August pass by, if it should be necessary to lay their land to grass, and the spring sowing has not been done, or has not proved successful.

Two Years' Growth of Wool.

We recently saw a communication in the Boston Cultivator, recommending shearing sheep only on alternate years, and also stating that wool may be dyed on the sheep—for instance, by dipping a sheep this fall into a "dye-tub," it would be colored a beautiful blue, while the succeeding year's growth would be white, and thus mixed yarns might be easily obtained by manufacturing the wool thus dyed. We have mislaid the number or we would publish it entire. Now we have tried this shearing on alternate years, and do not approve of it at all. We supposed at first from seeing some wool that had grown on sheep which had escaped shearing, that the wool would be longer, and that a long staple might be thus obtained. In some isolated cases this may be the case, but in a flock there is loss instead of profit in not shearing every year. Some loss a part of their wool during the season; of course they will not improve any. In nearly all that we tried there was a joint between the two years' growth, and in some instances the wool parted between the two growths, and a short fuzzy portion came out when in the carding machine which the teeth of the cards could not combine evenly with the rest, and which therefore made the yarn "nubby," as it is called. Much of it, though long, would not hold together in the joint to come so as to make worsted. Another important fact is this: You do not get in a fleece were it all remains on the sheep so much weight of wool in one of these two years' fleeces as you do in two fleeces from the same sheep sheared every year. As near as we can judge, the second year's growth will fall short about one fourth.

As regards coloring the wool on the sheep, we think it may be called "fancy work." We have known some politicians who professed to be "dyed in the wool," with hues of various shades, and with colors varying in durability, but never saw the process applied to the sheep. We should think, however, from the proverbial innocence

and honesty of that animal that the process of putting her through the preparatory process—the soaking in "stye," and scouring the fleece, would be rather a painful operation, but without which we couldn't reckon upon much success.

The Slug—What is it?

We have heard considerable complaint this season about a "nasty, slimy worm on pear and cherry trees, that looks like a leech, and eats all before him." This is commonly known by the name of "slug." It is the larva of a species of fly, and is a very destructive creature upon pear, cherry, and some other trees.

It may be destroyed by sprinkling slugs made of the whole oil soap upon them, or by obtaining some pulverized quick-lime, then wetting them with a watering pot, and sprinkling the lime upon them. By going over your trees once or twice in this way you will destroy them.

To use the whole oil soap, the Michigan Farmer recommends to put a pound of the soap into a quart of boiling water, and when dissolved add four gallons of cold water and sprinkle them with a common water pot.

The natural history of this destructive enemy is thus given by Browne in his "Trees of America."

"But by far the most pernicious enemy to the common cherry-tree is the slug-fly, *Blennocampa cerasi*, of Harris. He describes the creature, in his 'Report,' as being 'of a glossy color, except the two first pairs of legs, which are dirty yellow or clay-colored, with blackish thighs and the hind-legs, which are dull black with clay-colored knees. The wings are somewhat convex, and umpled or uneven on the upper side, like the wings of the saw-flies generally. They are transparent, reflecting the changeable colors of the rainbow, and have a smoky tinge, forming a cloud or broad band across the middle of the first pair, the veins are brownish. The body of the female measures rather more than one fifth of an inch in length; that of the male is smaller. In the year 1828, I observed these saw-flies, on cherry and plum-trees, on the 10th of May; but they usually appear towards the end of May or early in June. Soon afterwards, some of them begin to lay their eggs, and all of them finish this business and disappear, within the space of three weeks. Their eggs are placed, singly, within little semicircular incisions through the skin of the leaf, and generally on the lower side of it."

"On the fourth day afterwards, the eggs begin to hatch, and the young slug-worms continue to come forth from the 5th of June to the 20th of July, according as the flies have appeared early or late in the spring. At first, the slugs are white; but a slimy mother soon comes out of their skin and covers their backs with an olive-colored, sticky coat. They have twenty very short legs, or a pair under each segment of the body, except the fourth and the last. The largest slugs are about nine twentieths of an inch in length, when fully grown. The head, of a dark-chestnut color, is small, and is entirely concealed under the fore-part of the body. They are largest before, and taper behind, and in form somewhat resemble minute tadpoles. They have the faculty of swelling out the fore part of the body, and generally rest with the tail a little turned up. These disgusting slugs live mostly on the upper sides of the leaves of the pear and cherry-trees, and eat away the substance thereof, leaving only the veins and skin beneath, untouched."

"The slug-worms come to their growth in twenty-six days, during which period they cast their skin five times. Frequently, as soon as the skin is shed, they are seen feeding upon it; but they never touch the last coat, which remains stretched out upon the leaf. After this is cast off, they no longer retain their slimy appearance, and olive color, but have a clear yellow skin, entirely clear from viscosity. They change also in form, and become proportionally longer; and their head and the marks between the rings are plainly to be seen. In a few hours after this change, they leave the trees, and, having crept, or fallen to the ground, they burrow to the depth of from one inch to three or four inches, according to the nature of the soil. By moving their body, the earth around them becomes equally pressed on all sides, and an oblong-cavity is thus formed, and is afterwards lined with a sticky and glossy substance, to which the grains of earth closely adhere. Within these little earthen cells, or cocoons, the change of the chrysalides takes place, and, in sixteen days after the descent of the slug-worms, they finish their transformation, break open their cells, and crawl to the surface of the ground, where they appear in the fly form. These flies usually come forth between the middle of July and the first of August, and lay their eggs for a second brood of slug-worms. The latter come to their growth, and go into the ground, in September and October, and remain till the following spring, when they are changed to flies, and leave their winter quarters. It seems that all of them, however do not finish their transformations at this time; so that, if all the slugs of the last hatch in any one year should happen to be destroyed, enough of a former brood, would still remain in the earth, to continue the species."

Written for the Maine Farmer.

Morgan Horses.

MR. EDITOR:—The improvement of our breeds of horses is an object which deserves attention. Of the whole number of horses reared in the country, the proportion of good ones is very small; hence the remark is frequently made that the rearing of horses is unprofitable. The origin of our most valuable horses is not only a subject of interest to the curious, but it is also one of great importance; and a course which has produced improvement may be safely relied upon for the continuance of similar results.

The origin of the valuable stock of horses called Morgan, has been the subject of some controversy in this State. Many have supposed that they were of Canadian descent. Some persons having horses of Canadian descent, have advertised them as Morgan horses, which is very derogatory to the Morgan blood. The stock of Morgan horses is so universally known and admired throughout New England, that it is hardly necessary to repeat their merits. For a seller of horses, it is only necessary to establish the fact that his horses are of the Morgan blood, and he meets with a ready sale at good prices, and the

purchaser are more than satisfied. They excel in great endurance, carrying weight a long distance—and as runners, they excel all other horses in this or any other country—are full of noble and generous spirit, with such docility of temper that the most timid can drive them; but if put to their mettle, they are a full hand for the best driver. It has been asserted, and cannot with propriety be denied, that there has never been a stock of horses in New England which has proved so generally useful as the Morgan stock of the original Morgan horse, raised by Justin Morgan, of West Springfield, Mass., in 1793, and sired by the True Briton, or Beautiful Bay, raised by Gen. James DeLancy, of Long Island, N. Y., and sired by his imported English horse Traveller, (known as Morton's Traveller,) who traces directly back to the Godolphin Arabian. Dam of the original Morgan was of the Wild Air breed, sired by the Diamond, who was raised in East Hartford, Conn. Diamond was sired by the Wild Air, known as the Church Horse. The Church Horse was sired by the Wild Air imported from England by Gen. DeLancy, and afterwards taken back to England. He was a grandson of the Godolphin Arabian. The dam of the Church Horse was an imported Wild Air mare, owned by Capt. Samuel Burt, of Springfield, Mass.

The above is the genuine pedigree of the Morgan horse, which is in no way of French Canadian descent, as many have erroneously supposed. The description of the Morgan horse is not in the least exaggerated.

J. D. T.
Lincolnton, Me., 1849.

From the Port and Advertiser.

Grasshoppers.

Editors are supposed to know everything, and I want you to tell me where they come from? Go out into the fields, or your garden, and you will find, just now, the grass covered with "frog spittle,"—examine it, and you will find the young grasshopper nicely enclosed in the mass, measuring from one-quarter to half an inch in length; the largest well developed, and nearly ready to leave their humid home. The egg could not have been deposited on the grass this season, for there has not been a grasshopper seen, since the tiny plant burst from its winter sleep.

I have never noticed any thing like eggs on the grass—the first indication, so far as I know, that the grasshopper is coming, is the appearance of the "spittle." What is it? and where do the grasshoppers come from? B.
July 10, 1849.

MR. HOLMES:—If editors are supposed to know everything, it is evident that all grasshopper correspondents are not of that class. The Advertiser correspondent says, "go out into the fields," &c. Now this is all gammon, and a man need know but little to be convinced of the fact. The "hatched" found in the grasshopper is a shell is to a jackass. Mr. B. is entirely mistaken about the origin of Mr. Grasshopper and the insect enveloped in the "frog spittle."

This spittle has not been very common on our grasses only for a few years past. But lately it has been a universal settler on our smaller grasses, and is it not a fact since the frog spittle has been so prevalent, the grasshopper has become almost extinct?—so near to it, that up to the 10th of July, A. D. 1849, "there has not been a grasshopper seen," quite a singular assertion for our country folks to swallow. Now I undertake to say that Mr. B. or any other man cannot go into the fields and find any thing in the frog spittle that bears any resemblance to the grasshopper, either in looks, shape or habits.

Whoever heard of grasshoppers keeping at home until they become "from one quarter to half an inch in length"? Why, my dear sir, any observing farmer can well remember of seeing grasshoppers, some particular seasons, before the tender grass had done its "tiny" state, from the size of the little end of nothing, to that of a piece of chalk.

I suppose as a natural consequence, as the grasshopper in the spittle is found to be from one fourth to one half an inch in length, legs not reckoned, the spittle must be from three-fourths to one inch in diameter to protect the inhabitant, before he is big enough to go abroad, which is (i. e. the "spittle") much larger than I have seen.

Mr. B. says the egg could not have been deposited on the grass this season. Then I suppose it must have been laid last fall, or perhaps the season before—quite a discovery surely. Again, Mr. B. says, "the first indication of the grasshopper is the spittle," and after telling the editor where the grasshopper comes from when he comes, and how large he is when he comes, and all that, he winds off by asking, "What is it? and where do the grasshoppers come from?"

This reminds me of the Paddy's answer to the Judge, when asked whether he was guilty or not by business to prove me so." E. G. B.
North Yarmouth, July, 1849.

Form Work for August.

The hay and grain harvesting are first to be finished, and then commence the permanent improvements on the farm. August is the month when low lands are cleared and sowed to the best advantage. August is the best month for sowing certain grass seeds and winter rye. August is the best time to ditch bog lands and drain them preparatory for English grass. It is also a good month to enrich high lands by ploughing. Many other improvements which cannot well be made in other seasons are appropriate for August. Let us former think of remaining idle in this important month.

In preparing wet and boggy lands for grass seed, the first move is to drain them. The mud that is dug from the ditches is all wanted on the surface, and it will act as manure provided you let it lie in heaps till another year. It is well, therefore, to dig your ditches one whole year previous to sowing. The plan with which we have succeeded best, is to dig our ditches parallel with each other and four rods apart. This will drain nearly all your boggy and boggy lands as you would wish, and the contents of the ditches are all wanted for the surface. The mud may lie on the bank for a year; this will completely subdue all the swart that lies under it, and when you come to spread it next year you will find that the mud from your ditches has done much towards covering the whole surface between them.

When this is spread on you can cart or wheel earth from the adjoining high land to cover the whole surface and bury all the wild grass that is growing there. This is the best mode of subduing pest grounds in all cases where earth from the high land is not distant, and the meadow is hard enough to bear wheels. For all the earth that is carried on from the high grounds is wanted not to subdue the old soil and grass and small bushes, but to remain permanently and warm and drain the bog.

In other cases paring and burning may be more proper. Often we find surface matter that is burning, and the sales from this matter are excellent to encourage the new grass seed. They give you two or three harvests without either manure or ploughing and planting may be the cheapest mode of subduing when the course is feasible. Early potatoes may be dug soon enough for sowing grass seed, and a potato soon may pay much of the cost of subduing.

Besides there are large quantities of land that need no other draining than that which is effected by the plough. They lie low and flat, and are not suitable for tillage; for they are too wet at planting time. These lands should be worked in August or September. Farmers are usually loth to put a plough into such soils—and it was a maxim of long standing that if you subdue them and sowed English grass, the whole turn turn Indian again, and the labor will be lost.

But when such grounds can be turned flat they can be seeded on the furrow and laid immediately to grass without going through an unprofitable course of planting. August is the time to take full of such land and sow the grass seed. Herdsgrass, red top and fowl meadow seed, may be sown at that time. With half as much compost manure as usually put on corn land, a good harvest of hay may be expected the next season.

Any other grass land may be renovated in this way when the owner does not wish to take off a crop of grain. And August is the best month for sowing most of the grass seeds provided the weather is not too dry. When that is the case, wait till rain comes, wait till the middle of September rather than sow the seed when the ground is very dry.

Those farmers who are trying experiments with old rye fields should sow early. As soon as hay is over, turn in the stubble deep, and the scattered rye will aid some in seeding for another year. By sowing early you get much fall feed for the cows. [Mass. Ploughman.]

The Wheat Midge, Grain Worm or Weevil.

This destructive insect, known in different sections by the above names, is the same, we believe, that for ten years past has injured the wheat crop in this State so extensively. It is now making its depredations in some portions of the State of New York, and the attention of farmers has recently been directed to the subject by the publication of some communications addressed to the New York State Agricultural Society. The following account of the Wheat Midge, taken from the North British Agriculturist, received from J. Hall Maxwell, Secretary of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, will doubtless be interesting to many of the readers of the Maine Farmer. We are indebted to the Secretary of the N. Y. State Ag. Society for a copy of the paper containing it.

"In examining the ears in an early field, some yellow maggots were found. This led to the conclusion that some fly or other had deposited its eggs within the glume, where the maggots were discovered; and by examining the ears with a microscope, numbers of apparently new laid eggs were discovered in clusters near the embryo grain. This, of course, led to further research; and on a later field of spring sown wheat, just as the one side of the ear had opened the sheath, we observed, as was anticipated, as many as twelve or fourteen midges on the exposed part of each ear, busily employed in depositing their eggs within the glume, which, we remarked, were glued to the inside of the glume by a gummy substance, exuded at the same time with the eggs. One of our party remarked that he had seen the same fly deposit eggs in the same way on a panicle of grass; on examining which we found it to be the common corn grass, the *triticeum repens* of Linnaeus, showing that the Swede was more correct than those of modern times, who have assigned it another genus than that of *triticeum* or *Wheat*. We have not heard that it has been ever observed to deposit eggs on any other grass. Having so far found out the cause of what went under the convenient name of the blight in wheat, we applied to Kirby & Spence, who had previously written concerning this little grain, and who knew it by the name of *Tripla Tritici*, but who still left us in ignorance as to its winter quarters.

Our attention was directed to find out anything we could about its transformation; and we placed some ears in a glass jar, with the stalks inserted on holes in sand, through a paper perforated with holes to let the stalks downwards into the sand. This paper covering was intended to let us observe more easily when the larvae left the ear: about three weeks thereafter, on examining wheat ears in the field we found many of them quite empty of the larvae, and the embryo grain quite dead where the larvae had been. We then examined the ears in the jar, and found them also empty, without any appearing on the paper below, on lifting of which carefully, we found the larvae had descended, and found their way down through the perforations made for the wheat stalks, now in the dormant pupa state, of a semi-circular shape, and copper color. This led to further observations in such fields as had been somewhat later; when it was observed that the outer parts of the glume were inhabited by small black beetles in great numbers, and we found as soon as the larvae escaped from the glume, the beetle, led apparently by the smell, moved about with rapidity making much use of its feelers; and whenever a feeder touched the larva, it instantly darted an egg into its body, making it the nidus of its future progeny. This beetle is called by naturalists *Cerapion Destructor*, and seems one of those means by which the wise and beneficent ruler of all things gives a check to creatures that might otherwise prove seriously harmful. Such investigations, to which facts were led, soon made them quite familiar with everything connected with the habits of the fly. It was found that it came into the fly state when the mean temperature of the preceding 10 days was about 56 degrees, Fahrenheit. It was also perceived that it was too delicate to be exposed to the sun's rays throughout the day, when it continued among the shady wheat foliage; and it could only lay its eggs in a calm evening when the temperature was at or about 56 degrees, but taking itself to the shelter when the temperature fell to 53 or 54 degrees; nor could it deposit its eggs except the air was perfectly calm, and in the way of mischief it was found could only be performed during three days, at the most, of the plant's growth, just as the one side of the ear appeared. Various papers have been devoted, for preventing its depredations, but hitherto, so far as we know, these have all been ineffectual."

In New York, the varieties of Wheat known as the Mediterranean and the Black Sea, the former a winter, and the latter a spring variety, have more frequently escaped the ravages of the wheat midge than any other—and are now being largely cultivated in those sections of the State where the insect has appeared. It is probably owing to their ripening at a season when the fly is not so prevalent that they escape to a great extent its ravages.

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Sowing Grass Seed.

The time is now approaching for seeding on inverted turf. This, so far as the grass crop, at least, is concerned, is we are sure, a good course. Plow the ground the first leisure day you can find. About the middle of August, put on a coat of manure, dig it thoroughly and sow your grass seed. A good crop of grass for mowing may be expected the next season, and the grass will continue good much longer than when seeded with grain following corn or potatoes, although the corn may have been fair, and the subsequent crop of grain very good.

There may be, and probably is, more risk in clover, than timothy and red top. On this account some withhold the clover until the spring. In fall sowing without any other crop, the plan starts much more vigorously, and puts out a firmer root, than when shaded and choked during the summer by a heavy crop of grain. One of the greatest advantages, however, as we suppose, is derived from the manure applied. This, if spread upon the furrow and thoroughly covered with the drag, is in the best possible situation for benefiting the crop. Its first, best qualities are not taken by a previous crop, nor is it exposed to the wasting influence of a summer sun. It enjoys all the advantages of heat, light and moisture, and is where the grass roots can have direct and uninterrupted access to this prepared nutrient at all times. When grass is the grand object, and grounds are sowed, because they need reseeded, we are satisfied this is a good course.

When, as is often the case, seed sown in the spring with oats, fails, it is much better to turn over the stubble, as soon as the oats are taken off, and re-seed, than to wait until spring, and put on another crop. You save then, all the weeds and stubble, for the benefit of the future grass crop. These if permitted to dry away on the surface, are worth comparatively little for manure, and make often, bad mowing and dirty hay the next season. [Berkshire Cult.]

A COW WORTH HAVING. Mr. Geo. B. Brinkworth of Owasco, made me one cow, five years old the past spring, eighteen lbs. 2 oz. of butter for the week ending Saturday, June 30th. This quantity she averages during the summer season. The summer she was three years old, she made eighteen pounds per week, and she would have made more for the above week, but the fact that three of the very hottest days of the season were included in it. In flavor and color it was equal to any we ever ate, and we doubt if it was excelled by the celebrated Orange County butter. The cow can be bought for \$100.

[Auburn Journal.]

WINTER IN SEITZENBERG. The single night of this dreadful country begins about the 30th of October, the sun then sets, and never appears till about the 10th of February. A glimmering indeed continues some weeks after the setting of the sun, then succeeds clouds and thick darkness, broken by the light of the moon, which is as luminous as in England, and during this long night shines with unfading lustre. The cold strengthens with the new year, and the sun is ushered in with an unusual severity of frost. By the middle of March the cheerful light grows strong. Arctic fogs leave their holes and the sea-fowl resort in great numbers to their breeding places. The sun sets no more after the 13th of May; the distinction of day and night is then lost. In the height of summer the sun is then enough to melt the tar on the decks of ships; but from the Augustus power declines—it sets fast. After the middle of September, day is hardly distinguishable, and by the end of October takes a long farewell to this country; the earth becomes frozen, and winter reigns. [Christian Intelligencer.]

Weaning Lambs.

Lambs should be weaned at four months old. It is better for them, and much better for their dams. The lambs, when taken away, should be put for several days in a field distant from the ewes, that they may not hear each other's bleatings. The lambs, when in hearing of their dams, continue restless much longer, and they make constant and frequently successful efforts, to crawl through the fences which separate them. One or two tame old ewes are turned into the field with them to teach them to come at the call, find salt when thrown to them, and eat grain, &c., out of troughs when water approaches.

The lambs, when weaned at four months old, are the freshest and tenderest feed. I have usually reserved for mine the grass and clover, sown the preceding spring, on the grain fields which were seeded down.

The dams, on the contrary, should be put for a fortnight on short, dry feed, to stop the flow of milk. They should be looked to, once or twice, and should the bags of any be found much distended, the milk should be drawn, and the bag washed for a little time in cold water. But on short feed, they rarely give much trouble in this particular. When properly dried off, they should be put on good feed to recruit, and get in condition for winter. [Randall's Sheep Husbandry South.]

Good Farming.

Mr. John Johnston, near Geneva, had on his farm a cow, which probably gives more milk than any cow in the United States. Through the month of June 1848, she gave 42 quarts per day; and for five days she gave 42 quarts per day; which is probably without any parallel in this country. From the cream only, they made 14 lbs. butter per week. Had they shared from the milk, they would have got more butter. The cow was milked three times a day. The only feed she got, was grass in the pasture. She is of a roan color, half Durham and half native breed, and is seven years old. She is finely formed, and a handsome animal. She was raised by Mr. Johnston, who says she will be a good cow at 12 years or more. He has 8 ewes in his pasture of clover up to their knees, all fine animals, which it is a pleasure to look at.

Mr. Johnston is a Scotch farmer and grazier of great celebrity, and sells many fat cattle for New York. He has a farm of 300 acres, in one compact body of land, on the east side of Seneca Lake, about 3 miles from Geneva, in fields of 8 to 18 acres, all in the best condition. One field of 18 acres of Indian corn, last year yielded 83 bushels of shelled corn per acre. One field of 8 acres yielded 91 bushels and 45 lbs. of corn per acre, and a field of wheat of 16 acres, yielded 43 bushels per acre. Mr. Johnston drains his land by underground draining, and has some miles of earthen pipes (made at Waterloo) which he has been laying the last 8 years. From the rich feed in his pastures, the cattle are all in the best condition. He does not feed his grass down to the ground. This he calls his "fencing"—the roots get scorched by the summer drought, and frozen in winter. But a covering of grass protects the roots from both, and also keeps the cattle in good condition. He has large barns, and yards and sheds for the cattle. In the yards the cattle make large quantities of manure—from wheat straw. He carts no mud from meadows into his barnyard. He puts the manure on the land in the fall, spreading and ploughing it in at once, and not letting it remain for the sun and wind to dry up.

He observed to the writer of this, that he never saw a new hand so highly improved, but he had seen much land too little manured. Land will always give a return for all that is put upon it. The best proof of this, is that in the last 20 years, he has brought his farm from what was called *corn land*, to its present superior condition, not by borrowed capital, but solely by the proceeds of the farm itself, obtained by his practical knowledge of good farming, combined with industry and economy. [Journal of Commerce.]

Electricity and Cholera.

Dr. Audren, of Paris, has communicated to the academy of sciences, the following interesting letter, upon the connection between the cholera and electricity, which appears to be a decisive solution of the presence of the prevailing epidemic.

PARIS, June 10, 1849.

Throughout the varying course of the ravages of the cholera in Paris—that is to say, during the past three months nearly, I have studied the action of the electrical machine laid in order to satisfy myself whether there is not a fixed connection between the intensity of that scourge and the absence of the electric fluid usually diffused throughout the atmosphere.

The machine which has been the object of my daily observations, is a very powerful one—at ordinary times, it throws off after two or three turns of the wheel, detonating sparks from two to two and a half inches in length. I at first observed, that from the commencement of the epidemic it was impossible to produce this result. During the months of April and May, sparks, obtained with great difficulty, never exceeded seven tenths of an inch, and their variations agreed very closely with the irregularities of the cholera. This supplied at once a strong ground of belief, that I was close upon the important fact I sought to establish; yet I was not quite convinced, since the variable motion of the atmosphere might have caused the irregularities of the machine.

I waited, therefore, with impatience, the coming fine weather and heat, to continue my observations with more certainty. Heat and fine weather at length came, and to my amazement, the machine, though often referred to, far from denoting, as should have been the case, an increase of electricity, only gave more and more feeble indications of it, to such a degree, that during the days of the 4th, 5th and 6th of June, it was impossible to obtain anything more than slight cracklings, without sparks, and at length, on the 7th, the machine remained entirely silent. This new decrease of the electric fluid coincided perfectly, as is well known, with the violence of the cholera. For my part, I felt appalled rather than surprised, my conviction was fixed; and I saw in it but the result of a clearly established fact.

It may be imagined with what anxiety, in those critical moments, I consulted the machine, the faithful witness to a great calamity. At

length on the morning of the 8th, feeble sparks reappeared; and I perceived with joy that the life giving fluid was returning into the atmosphere. Towards evening, a storm announced to Paris that electricity had returned to its domain; in my view, the cholera was vanishing with the cause that produced it. The next Saturday, the 9th my experiments were confirmed, and every thing had then returned to its proper condition; the machine, at the slightest touch, threw out brilliant sparks with ease, and it might almost be said, with delight, as if aware of the good tidings it was bringing.

I have thought it my duty, Mr. President, to communicate these facts immediately to the academy. The question now appears to me entirely solved. Nature has infused into the atmosphere a mass of electricity, contributing to the service and support of life. If, by any cause, this mass of electricity is diminished, and sometimes decreased even to exhaustion, what follows? Every one suffers; those who carry within a sufficient supply of electricity, withstand it; those who can live only by borrowing electricity from the common mass, perish with the exhaustion of that mass. This is a clear and perfectly rational explanation not only of the cholera but perhaps of all other epidemics that at intervals afflict humanity. If the great fact in question were recognized and admitted as a principle, I think it would be easy for medical science, as it does, countless ways of producing and restraining electricity to prepare for a successful resistance, upon its reappearance, of a plague which I regard at present as at least arrested in its course, if it has not wholly vanished.

Accept, Mr. President, the assurance of my respectful regard.

AUDREN.

Apples, as an Article of Human Food.

The importance of apples, as food, has not hitherto been sufficiently estimated in this country nor understood. Besides contributing a large proportion of sugar, mucilage, and other nutritive matter, in the form of food, they contain such a fine combination of vegetable acids, extractive substances, and aromatic principles, with the nutritive matter, as to act powerfully in the capacity of refrigerants, tonics, and antiseptics; and when freely used at the season of ripeness, by rural laborers and others, they "prevent debility, strengthen digestion, correct the putrefactive tendencies of nitrogenous food, avert scurvy, and probably maintain and strengthen the powers of productive labor."

The operations of Cornwall in England, consider ripe apples nearly as nourishing as bread, and more so than potatoes. In the year 1801, a year of scarcity, apples, instead of being converted into cider, were sold to the poor; and the laborers asserted that they could stand their work on baked apples, without meat; whereas, a potato diet required either meat or fish.

The French and Germans use apples extensively; indeed, it is rare that they sit down, in the rural districts, without them in some shape or other, even at the best tables. The laborers and mechanics depend on them, to a very great extent, as an article of food, and frequently dine on sliced apples and bread. Stewed with rice, red cabbage, carrots, or by themselves, with a little sugar and milk, they make both a pleasant and nutritious dish. [American Agriculturist.]

PANTHER. Mr. James Simmons, one of our most trustworthy explorers, says the Bangor Courier, has described to us a panther lately seen by him near the head waters of the St. John. The animal was of a dark red color, with short strong legs, armed with stout claws



R. EATON, Proprietor. E. HOLMES, Editor.

THURSDAY MORNING, AUGUST 9, 1894.

Whitman's Horse Power.

We noticed not long since a lot of Horse Power and Thrashers on the freight cars of the A. & C. Railroad, from the manufactory L. & E. Whitman, of Winthrop.

They were destined for the New York market, and in order to fit them so as to be satisfactory to the operators in that section of the Union, we observed that some changes had been made from those ordinarily used among us in New England. For some reason or other, thrashers in that region prefer to have the concave over instead of under the cylinder. Of course a reverse direction must be given to the revolution of the cylinder to what it would have, if the concave were placed at the bottom, in the usual way. This has been very ingeniously effected by Mr. Whitman, by placing a pinion within the rim of the driver instead of the outside of the periphery as usual, and the cogs of the driver are also made in the inside pointing to the centre. It works very easily and natural, and also allows the machine to be made more compact by not requiring the shafts of these wheels to project on the outside of the machine so far as in the other model.

We noticed also another very good improvement by making the endless row of legs lower at the rear, so that a horse may get on to the machine without recourse to a bridge or inclined plane to walk upon first. The girl at the bottom, which formerly was placed across outside of the legs, and which has been the means of breaking the legs of not a few valuable horses, has been placed within, in such a manner as to afford just as much strength, and yet be entirely out of harm's way. If a horse slips back on one of these, or is backing off, there is no danger of catching his foot and breaking his leg. His hands safely upon the floor. Mr. W. has sent a great number of machines west and south, where they are in good demand. They are firmly and strongly made, and prove to be efficient machines for the purpose required.

The prevalence of the several heretofore among us, and the consequent diminution of the wheat crop, has diminished the use and call for such machinery at home, although there will probably never be a return to the old fall again to any extent.

Villainous Outrage.

As H. K. BAKER, Esq., of Hallowell, who has been sitting in jail in several trials in this town for violations of the license law, was proceeding home last Saturday, he was assailed by a person by the name of Ripley, accompanied by several others. Ripley was armed with a cowhide, with which he commenced an assault, while another seized Mr. Baker's cane and broke it, leaving him thus in a defenceless situation. We know not why the assailant should commit this outrage on a peaceable and unoffending citizen, unless it should be from the fact of his acting as magistrate, and endeavoring to promote the observance of law and order. If it was done to vindicate the cause of those who are violating the license law, it was a capital mistake, for it has roused up hundreds who were heretofore indifferent to the matter. It is the first time that the peace of our town has been thus broken, and we are inclined to think it will be the last, for the people are aroused to make common cause of it.

The Poison in Eggs.

An article is going the rounds, which purports to be taken from a Cyclopaedia, stating that there is a poison in eggs, and that if the white of an egg be boiled hard, and then the shell hung up in the air, a liquid will drop from it which will dissolve myrrh, which is more than water, spirit, or even fire itself can effect. It also states that a little of it taken into the stomach occasions nausea, horror, fainting, vomiting, diarrhea and gripes—inflames the bile, excites heat, thirst, fever, and dissolves the humors like a plague.

Cotton Mattresses.

Having been applied to several times during this warm weather for information respecting the mode of making cotton mattresses, we think it would be proper to republish an article on the subject, which was in the Farmer last summer, as follows:

First Cost of Cotton Mattresses.

Thirty lbs. of cotton, at eight cents per lb., \$2.40; twelve yards of ticking at a shilling a yard, \$2; labor, thread, &c. &c., \$2.75 more—making a total of \$7.15.

Mode of Making.

Take layers of cotton batting, and place them between envelopes of calico or muslin. An improvement has been suggested of gumming or glazing each side of these layers, as wadding for cloaks is prepared. A patent has been taken out for making them with a layer of hair between the battings; whether it is much of an improvement, we cannot tell.

Our readers who have not availed themselves of the opportunity of visiting the interesting Exhibition at Winthrop Hall, are informed that the present week is positively the last of its continuance here. In consequence of previous engagements, it will be impossible for it to remain in town any longer than this week.

GREEN CORN.

We received a fine specimen of green corn from Mr. Daniel Lock, of this town, on the first day of August, inst.

LEAD MINES AT BUCKSPORT, ME.

We learn that the lead mine recently discovered at Bucksport, is found to extend across the river, and the specimens analyzed have proved very rich, yielding over seventy per cent of pure lead. The quantity is said to be large, and immediate measures will be taken to work the mine systematically, and it is believed a large profit will be realized. [Bangor Whig.]

FATAL ACCIDENT.

On Saturday last, 28th, Col. John L. Tucker, of Standish, came to his death in a very sudden manner. He was engaged in taking down the frame of a new mill at Standish, in Standish. A portion of the frame fell upon Col. T., dreadfully injuring and crushing him, and causing his death in a few hours. He was a worthy man, and was left a wife and three young children mournfully affected by his sudden death. [Argus.]

Mr. Vattemare's Report.

A report has been published by this enthusiastic and indefatigable French gentleman in regard to the system of exchanges of books, maps, &c., between the several nations, of which he is the originator and to the accomplishment and success of which he has devoted his whole time and talents for several years.

It is a very interesting document and gives a clear view of the whole progress of the work.

The following is an extract from the report.

To America, it is believed that the increased knowledge and appreciation of her intellectual wealth and resources, which must result from the wide dissemination of her products of mind throughout the civilized world, would be more than a full remuneration for a hundred times the expenditure which is necessary to secure it; indeed, any pecuniary estimate is not wholly out of place in calculating the value of such appreciation. It is a lamentable fact that the United States do not occupy that high place in European estimation, to which her social and national position entitles her. She is either seen through the distorted medium of a foreign press, or judged from the narrations of ignorant, prejudiced, or mercenary travelers, who visit her shores merely to collect such facts and fables as will enable them to make a saleable book. Had the people of Europe an opportunity of learning your true and salutary laws; the peaceful yet powerful working of your free government; your admirable institutions; your religious views; and the universal means of education which you possess; your public works and public press, rivaling each other in public benefit; your immense natural resources, and the freedom of your commerce, they could not but be filled with admiration, and would at once be fired to respect and admire you for other than military or commercial triumphs, and feel proud that your country was pre-eminent.

One great step towards the spread of the knowledge of America and her institutions in Europe, has already been made by the system of exchange, in the formation of an American Library in the city of Paris. The library is already in existence, and contains a highly valuable collection of American books, constantly increased by the large transmission which American liberality is constantly sending to it. It is the richest of the kind in the world, and the result of the efforts of the national mind. The library has an alcove, expressly appropriated for the reception of its contributions, each severally distinguished by its name, arms, and date of the American Republic. In all the thousands of Frenchmen, and foreigners of every nation, who visit the Hotel de Ville weekly, must, per force, become better acquainted with the history and genius of your glorious country. I appear to you, therefore, as a Frenchman, and as a Frenchman, I feel proud to make this library a worthy monument to the intellect and liberality of the nation.

Artificial Petrified Wood, for Pavements, &c.

We see, by the N. Y. Farmer and Mechanic, that Mr. W. A. Kentish, No. 40, Peck Slip, recommends a mode of petrifying wood for pavements. He says:—In a few hours any quantity of large blocks of wood may be so prepared as to prevent, forever, decomposition and decay! The process changes them into an iron petrification, and they become as solid and as durable as stone! If this boards are prepared in a similar way, to put beneath the blocks, it renders the bed of cement unnecessary, and is, in every respect, quite as effective and lasting.

If this operation which Mr. K. recommends will render wood as durable as he says, it will be a valuable mode of rendering floors and timbers, used in damp and warm situations, as in tanneries and mills, very lasting. It would be well to give the system a fair trial.

Banner Temperance Town.

Brother Sleeper of the Boston Journal has been enjoying the Sea Breezes of Provincetown on the very "tip-end" of Cape Cod. He gives a good account of the inhabitants, especially in regard to Temperance.

The paper expenses annually, hardly reach five hundred dollars. This moderate expense for the support of the poor is undoubtedly owing in part to the state of the temperance reform—no alcoholic drinks or wines being sold, and the laws of temperance being faithfully observed by the inhabitants voluntarily, while strangers must be temperate, "will you kill me?" unless they bring along with them a couple of glasses of brandy and water. On the morning after my arrival, a couple of young men who had come down from Boston the day previous, called at the Pilgrim House, and enquiring for the landlord, with a swaggering air, asked for a couple of glasses of brandy and water. They were told that no spirituous liquor was sold there. They looked rather blank, and muttered something not very complimentary to the town or the people—and finally departed. "We keep no wine or intoxicating drinks of any kind!" replied Mr. Gifford. "What have you got to drink, then?" "Good old WATER!" These votaries of the drunkenness of the world, who are so much at home at a beverage to which they had such an antipathy, and to the taste of which they had doubtless been strangers for many years. "Can you tell us where we can get a glass of something to drink?" "Come, Ned, let us be off, and let us get a glass of something to drink!" They were told that no spirituous liquor was sold there. They looked rather blank, and muttered something not very complimentary to the town or the people—and finally departed. "We keep no wine or intoxicating drinks of any kind!" replied Mr. Gifford. "What have you got to drink, then?" "Good old WATER!" These votaries of the drunkenness of the world, who are so much at home at a beverage to which they had such an antipathy, and to the taste of which they had doubtless been strangers for many years. "Can you tell us where we can get a glass of something to drink?" "Come, Ned, let us be off, and let us get a glass of something to drink!" 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